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WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR..... 1959

WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN:- Mr. A.R. Maiden. VICE-CHAIRMAN:- Dr. E.H. Markby.

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Mr. J. Chalmers.

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Mr. H.C.M. Harvey

Mr. F.W.J. Moore.

Mr. L.S.D. Neate.

Lt.Col. W.H.B. Ray

Miss M.C. Richards.

WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Dr. G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B. Pharm., D.P.H.

holding appointments of:-

Assistant County Medical Officer .	} 5/11th of time.
School Medical Officer.	
Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District.	
Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.	
Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum.	
Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District.	

contributing roughly:-

Wimborne Minster Urban District.....	$\frac{1}{3}$ day per week.
Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ days per week.
Borough of Blandford Forum.....	$\frac{1}{4}$ day per week.
Blandford Rural District.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ day per week.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

E. Gellender, M.R.S.H.

Civic Centre,
Winborne Minster,
Dorset.

June, 1961

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit for your consideration my Annual Report
for the year 1959.

Its very belated appearance is regretted. I
commented in my previous annual report upon Winborne Minster's
good fortune in having a little fluoride in its water supply
and I am able to present some interesting results stemming from
this happy circumstance.

G.B. Hopkins.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

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Area (in acres).....	653
Population as estimated (mid-year) by Registrar General.....	4290
Total number estimated of inhabited houses at 31/12/59.....	1400
Rateable value at 1st April, 1959.....	£60252
Sum represented by penny rate.....	£240.

LIVE BIRTHS

Comparative Standardised Statistics.
Wimborne Minster. Administrative England &
County. Wales.

Number.....	52.	14.	14.6	16.5
<u>Illegitimate Live Births</u> per cent of Total Live Births		5.8		

Stillbirths

Numbers.....	1.
Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths.	19
Total Live and Stillbirths.....	53
Infant Deaths.....	0
Maternal Mortality.....	0

DEATHS.

Number.....	68.	11.7	12.4	11.6
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PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Measles.....	16
Tuberculosis.....	3
Scarlet fever....	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1
Pneumonia.....	1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register was as follows:-

PULMONARY

Males.....	8
Females.....	9

NON-PULMONARY

Males.....	0
Females.....	2

TUBERCULOSIS (Cont)

1860 persons attended a Mass Radiography Unit stationed in Wimborne. Eight of these cases were referred for investigation and three cases considered active. This incidence would suggest that there were likely to be about fifty unrecognised cases of active T.B. in the combined populations of the urban and rural districts, assuming a very slightly greater incidence in those not presenting themselves for X Ray than in those presenting themselves.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. Notification in Age Groups.

DISEASES.	Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	10.	15.	20.	35.	45.	+
Measles.....	-	1	1	1	1	10	2	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Scarlet fever...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION STATISTICS URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS COMBINED.

BCG.	POLIOMYELITIS		DIPHTHERIA.		WHOOPING COUGH.		TETANUS.		SMALLPOX.	
	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.
342	2957.	3557.	436.	248.	393.	74.	387.	40.	355.	68.

P = Primary course of two or three injections.
B = Booster dose of one single injection.

STATISTICAL TABLES - 1959
Causes of Death.

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Male.

Female.

1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease.....	-	-
4.	Diphtheria.....	-	-
5.	Whooping cough.....	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections.....	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-
8.	Measles.....	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	-	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	1	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	4	1
15.	Leukaemias, leukaemia.....	-	-
16.	Diabetes.....	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	1	5
18.	Coronary disease, angina.....	10	8
19.	Hypertension with heart diseases.....	-	-
20.	Other heart diseases.....	5	1
21.	Other circulatory diseases.....	6	8
22.	Influenza.....	-	-
23.	Pneumonia.....	1	2
24.	Bronchitis.....	-	1
25.	Other disease of respiratory system.....	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.....	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.....	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations.....	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	3	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.....	1	-
34.	All other accidents.....	1	-
35.	Suicide.....	1	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-

ADMINISTRATION

In August a joint meeting of representatives of the five authorities for whom I act was held.

A recommendation was made for a whole time assistant for County Council duties instead of the half time assistant already appointed in 1958, with a view to enabling me to devote to the four district councils the six elevenths of my time allocated to them. Attention was also directed to the problem of the division of this six elevenths between the various district councils, who contribute on the basis of rateable values as outlined on page 2 of this report. It was agreed that this would be left to my discretion as before.

An additional public health inspector, appointed during 1958, was maintained on the staff in connection with the slum clearance programme and was fully occupied throughout the year on this work.

VERMINOUS PERSONS.

No action was necessary under this heading. Powers and duties exist under S.83, 84 and 85 and Part III of the Public Health Act, 1936, for dealing with filthy or verminous persons, premises and articles.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases were notified.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Nil

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

It was not possible to give any attention to these regulations, staff being fully occupied in dealing with unfit houses.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS)(SPECIFIED AREAS) ORDER, 1959.

In April, 1959, the district became a designated area in which the following types only of milk could be sold:-

- Tuberculin Tested.
- Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised ("Red Caps.")
- Pasteurised.
- Sterilised.

THE ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, etc.) REGULATIONS, 1959.

No manufacturing for sale is done in the district.

PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948, empowers the Council, where the Medical Officer of Health certifies that removal is necessary, to take defined steps to secure the removal of persons in need of care and attention to suitable premises. This section required at least a week and in practice longer, to put into operation, and it soon became obvious that the procedure was too protracted to deal with emergencies. The National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, was designed to facilitate procedure under these circumstances, and where he is authorised by a Council, the Medical Officer of Health may himself apply to a magistrate for an Order enabling quick removal in circumstances of dire emergency.

Action under the above powers is regarded by your Medical Officer of Health as a very last resort. Pleasanter methods of dealing with such cases are nearly always possible, and much can be done, by providing domestic help, to keep old persons in their homes. Even a year or two of independent existence won in this way seems much preferable to an alternative which the present generation of old people still regard as having an aura of the workhouse.

The elderly persons' bungalows at Barnes Crescent, with warden facilities, continued to fulfill a very valuable function and fulfilled the expectations and foresight with which they were built. It is usually possible to find two or three or even more, suitable tenants for each vacancy.

The medico-social impact of old age is growing. In 1901, one in twenty-one of the population was over 65. In 1954 - one in nine of the population was over 65. In 1975 it is estimated that one in seven of the population will be over 65.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is supplied by the Bournemouth Water Company from a deep well situated at Walford where it is chlorinated and softened.

The water is exceptional for this part of England in consistently exhibiting the mineral fluoride in the proportion of 0.8 parts per million, as a naturally occurring salt. The optimum level of fluoride in water supplies for the preservation of teeth is known throughout temperate zones as 1.1 p.p.m. and such water, if drunk throughout infancy and childhood, reduces tooth decay to about one third of what it would otherwise be. The benefit obtained is not pro rata, in other words, 0.55 p.p.m gives much less than half the protection that 1.1 p.p.m gives. It became a very interesting speculation as to what benefit children born and bred in Wimborne Minster derived, and I am indebted to Mr. Pretty, the Principal School Dental Officer for Dorset for conducting a comparative survey of children's teeth in Wimborne Minster and in another small Dorset town whose water supply contains no fluoride, and to the County Medical Officer of Health for permission to publish the following results:-

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Wimborne Minster</u>		<u>D.M.F. per child.</u>
	<u>Number of Teeth</u>	<u>No. of Children</u>	
5	<u>115</u>	31	3. 7
6	93	21	4. 4
7	51	11	4. 6
8	112	21	5. 3
9	159	29	5. 5
10	176	35	5. 0
11	56	10	5. 6

<u>Another Dorset Town - (Fluoride - nil)</u>			
5	175	33	5. 3
6	152	31	4. 9
7	129	22	5. 9
8	212	24	8. 0
9	235	29	8. 0
10	169	19	8. 9
11	71	11	6. 5.

(D.M.F = -----
Decayed, missing and filled.)

It will be observed that there is a marked superiority of the Wimborne childrens' teeth, whose average "D.M.F." rate was 4.8, over those of the comparable town whose average "D.M.F." rate was 6.8. It was not possible to conveniently find and examine enough children in each town in the eleven to sixteen age group, bred and born in their respective towns, to provide comparative figures for this age group, but it will be appreciated that since the process of decay is progressive, the observed gap in the quality of the childrens' teeth in each town would be appreciably wider in the higher age ranges.

It has been argued that to artificially fluoridate a water supply is fundamentally different from natural fluoridation, but it is the elemental substance in the form of free ions in solution, which produces the benefit, and whether it is added by the underground rocks or by a chemist, it is in exactly the same form, namely free ions in solution.

It is presumptuous to suggest that there can be any difference between the naturally occurring fluoride and that put into a water supply by the chemist since it suggests that man can alter an elemental substance (Such a suggestion twenty years ago would have been described as a Wellsian vision, now it is a Harwellian fact, but this does nothing to alter the basic truth of the above contention). For this reason it will be apparent that The Other Comparable Town could easily arrange to fluoridate its water supply artificially to 1.1 p.p.m and thus catch up and pass Wimborne Minster.

SEWERAGE

The construction of the new disposal works and the laying of main sewers proceeded according to plan.

CLEAN AIR ACT.

Part of this Act became enforceable on the 31st December, 1956, giving Local Authorities new powers and duties for the prevention of air pollution and including provisions relating to the installation of new furnaces, chimney heights, the making of building bye-laws, smoke control areas and other matters.

The remainder of the Act came into force in June, 1958, enabling the prohibition of dark smoke from chimneys, the abatement of smoke nuisances and other measures.

Section 3 of the main Act requires that any person proposing to install a furnace shall give notice of intention to do so to the Local Authority and failure to give notice is an offence.

Section 10 provides that when plans in connection with the installation of new furnaces are submitted, the Local Authority has to be satisfied that the heights of chimneys are such that no smoke nuisances will be likely to arise.

HOUSING.

At the end of 1958 the Council had made fifteen Clearance Orders, comprising a total of 62 houses; a Public Enquiry had been held regarding the first four of these Orders, but the Minister's decision had not been received.

During 1959 the Council declared a further six Clearance Areas. To deal with these areas they made one Compulsory Purchase Order and five Clearance Orders. These comprised 35 houses:

Three further Public Enquiries were held during the year.

By the end of 1959 the Minister of Housing and Local Government had given his decision regarding fourteen Clearance Orders. All were confirmed without modification: 57 houses were involved.

Decisions were pending with regard to the remaining seven Areas, comprising another 40 houses, and have since been received as follows:-

- | | | |
|---|--|------------|
| 3 | (2 Clearance Orders and 1 Compulsory Purchase Order)
Orders confirmed without variation..... | 15 houses. |
| 1 | (Clearance Area) - Order confirmed with variation (i.e
one of fifteen houses in area was excluded.)..... | 14 houses. |
| 2 | (Clearance Areas) - orders not confirmed, the Ministry
suggesting action under Part 11 of the Housing Act,
1957. This involved seven houses. | |
| 1 | (Clearance Area)
Order not confirmed..... | 3 houses. |

OVERCROWDING.

No dwellings were known to be overcrowded.

FACTORIES ACT, 1957

Part One - Health (General Provisions)

The first seven sections of this Act contain provisions concerning cleanliness, freedom from effluvia and nuisances, overcrowding, temperature, fumes, circulation of fresh air and ventilation, natural and artificial lighting, drainage of floors, and provision of suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences.

District Councils have powers in connection with sanitary conveniences whether or not mechanical power is used, and powers with respect to all the other provisions where no mechanical power is used.

Number of Factories Registered in the District.....	49
Number of Inspections made during the year.....	3

FACTORIES ACT, 1957

<u>PREMISES.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
1. Factories in which no mechanical power is used.....	4	7
2. Factories in which mechanical power is used.....	42	27
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority (Excluding Outworkers' premises.).	3	2
<u>TOTAL</u>	49	36

Number of Cases in which defects were found:-

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred to H.M.Inspector.</u>
1. Sanitary conveniences (7)			
(a) Insufficient.....	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	3	1	-

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

No premises are registered.

RODENT CONTROL

	<u>Council Premises.</u>	<u>Private Premises.</u>	<u>Business Premises.</u>	<u>Agric. Premises.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Total number of visits made by staff.	2	288	129	2	421
Total number of premises inspected:-					
(a) on complaint.....	1	30	16	1	48
(b) on survey.....	-	245	70	-	315
Total number of premises found infested:-					
(a) on complaints.....	-	26	14	-	40
(b) On survey.....	1	30	20	-	51
Number of premises treated.....	1	19	13	-	33
Number of premises cleared.....	-	17	10	-	27
Re-treated and cleared.....	-	10	8	-	18
Number of pre-baits laid.....	1	26	18	-	45
Number of poison baits laid.....	1	26	17....	-	44
Number of post baits laid.....	1	25	18	-	44
Number of instances where other method used..... Walferin....	-	370	140	-	510
Estimated number of rats destroyed...	54	168	135	-	357
Number of bodies or rats recovered...	18	56	45	-	119

MICE

Number of complaints received.....	-	14	12	-	26
Number of premises treated.....	-	14	12	-	26
Premises cleared.....	-	11	9	-	20



